

**MAYOR'S ADVISORY GROUP
JULY 18, 2006**

MINUTES

Members Present

Joseph Donaldson
Gene Westerhaus
Nat White
Renee Fauset
David Camacho

Members Absent

Tara Green - Excused
Judy Boyer - Excused
Julie Pastrick
Grover Decker
Lee Treece - Excused
Eric Norgard - Excused
Mitch Strohman - Excused
Coral Evans - Excused
Joanne Keene
Robert Magnuson
Karl Baumgartner
Dana Russell

Staff – Guests – Visitors Present

Dave Wilcox, City Manager
Joan Bethell, ADOC
Laura Parker

Nat White called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes. A motion was made by David Camacho to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2006 meeting. Motion seconded by Gene Westerhaus. Motion carried unanimously.

Nat welcomed the group and introduced the topic of discussion: Factual Presentation of the Coconino Community College Override. Nat introduced Bonnie Stevens. Ms Stevens passed out written information to the group and gave a power point presentation on the information.

Coconino Community College budget funded in three sources – property taxes, state appropriations and tuitions and fees. 2007 total operating budget is \$14.6 million. Percentage provided by the State has declined from 45% to 23% from FY 01 – FY 07. Flagstaff receives the lowest property tax rate in the state for the community college.

The amount of the proposed override is slightly more than \$16 million over seven years, generating \$2.319 million for the college each year. That amount will not increase regardless of increases in property value. Property owners in Coconino county would be asked to approve a tax increase of \$14.77 on a home with a value of \$100,000 as listed on the tax roles or about \$1.23 per month.

CCC board members say the money will be used to meet the needs of a growing enrollment, for start-up costs necessary for new career and technical education programs, to equip classrooms

with tools currently used in the workplace to give students hands-on experience, to improve student services that will facilitate learning and to enhance technology that will increase access to higher education.

New career and technical programs will be developed in response to needs identified by communities. Some of the programs being explored include those that would train mechanics, nutritionists, green builders and healthcare assistants.

The funds also will allow the college to acquire updated and additional equipment to train firefighters, healthcare professionals, computer technical specialists and teachers. In addition, enhanced equipment, software and computer network improvements will help increase access to higher education and student services in Flagstaff, Page and Williams along with some of the most remote areas of northern Arizona.

The Coconino Community College District's property tax is the lowest in the state. Maricopa Community College District is the next lowest with a rate twice of that of the CCC District. Meantime, CCC's tuition is the second highest in the state per credit hour.

CCC opened its doors in 1991 with expectations that it would one day serve 1,000 students. Enrollment has grown steadily to a projected 5,000 this fall. Today the college is the training ground for many of the county's firefighters, teachers, nurses, computer technologists, law enforcement officers and environmentally sensitive builders.

Discussion and questions were held on the information presented. Discussion was held on including information on workforce development and placement—and job growth in Flagstaff along with quotes for employers regarding how they need and use qualified students. Suggestions and further discussion was held on the FAQ sheet.

Nat thanked Ms. Stevens for her time and presentation.

Upcoming Meeting Topics:

Discussion was held on possible topics to discuss at next meeting. Decision made to have the **Coconino County Criminal Justice** as the discussion topic for the August 15, 2006 meeting. Dave Wilcox will follow up regarding speakers

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 am.